

**Safety Review Committee
June 20, 2003
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Minutes

Members Present

Joel Ager, Michael Banda, Dennis Collins, Sharon Doyle, Ben Feinberg (Chair), Richard Kadel, Ed Lampo (Secretary), Peter Lichty, Steve Lundgren, Othon Monteiro (by Pat Thomas), Linfeng Rao, Linda Smith, Scott Taylor, Weyland Wong, Linda Wuy, Hisao Yokota

Members Absent

Ken Fletcher, Mack Kennedy, Don Lucas, Augusto Macchiavelli,

Others Present

Matt Kotowski, Robin Wendt

Previous Minutes

Minutes of the May 16 meeting were distributed and discussed.

Under **Update: 2003 MESH Reviews**, change **Directorate** MESH line to read:

Directorate MESH team has met once and will meet again 5/28.

The minutes of the May 16, 2003 meeting were accepted as amended.

Ergo Pilot Program

The proposals submitted by Earth Sciences, EETD and, Life Sciences have been accepted. As requested, matching funds have been granted by LBNL Operations.

Update: 2003 MESH Reviews

Advanced Light Source MESH report is in the process of being written.

Directorate team has completed review and meet 6/23 to discuss.

EETD team have on-site meeting with the division 6/30 and expect to complete report in July.

PBD MESH team has completed review; expect final report and Division acceptance in July.

Physics MESH review in August; Division agreed to provide Questionnaire answers in July.

LBNL Accident Statistics

Matt Kotowski presented an update on Berkeley Lab accident rates. The data reported is as of March 2003. A copy of his PowerPoint slides will be sent upon request. In general, LBNL has been steadily improving its safety record in the areas of accidents and injuries. The Total Recordable Case (TRC) rate has been steadily decreasing and is starting to level off. The Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART) rate is also leveling off. (Note that DART now replaces the previously reported Lost Workday Case (LWC) rate.) In addition to general improvement, LBNL has also been meeting the challenge of goals as set by DOE/UC. There is concern, however, that future goals may be based upon unrealistic standards. It seems that the statistics quoted from one firm (cited as the "Gold Standard" for accident safety) has excluded many injury/illness types from their numbers. As a result comparison of LBNL performance to the Gold Standard is, at best, distorted.

Matt went on to discuss ways to sustain and improve our accident safety record. The Integrated Safety Management (ISM) approach used by LBNL has been instrumental in improving safety

performance metrics. With the recent rise in ergonomic injuries, LBNL has made concerted efforts to relieve this aspect of personnel safety. Instituted are: Ergo Evaluation Programs, Workstation Evaluation, Mandatory Evaluations for heavy computer users, Loaner Programs of ergo furniture & stations, Annual Ergo Fair, significant funding for ergo improvements. Michael Banda observed that there needs to be some Lab-wide distribution about "accidents". Possibly noteworthy safety related items could be posted in the Daily News; items such as:

- 1/3 of LBNL accidents are ergo
- box knife problems
- trip hazards

OSHA and Log Under-Reporting

Peter Lichty presented data on occupational injury and illness rates -- with questions as to reliability/accuracy of the data.

History

- OSHA injury rates fell during the 1980's, and no one knew exactly why.
- In 1987, the Bureau of Labor Statistics studied the OSHA logs of 200 manufacturers in Massachusetts and Missouri to assess possible under-reporting.
- Due to the importance of reporting, OSHA hired a consultant to do a larger survey of 250 employers nationwide in 1997.
- OSHA logs were compared to payroll records and medical records of injuries to see if injuries were properly recorded.
- Ref: BLS Monthly Labor Review, Nov. 1998

Findings -- Consistent Under-reporting

- Both in 1987 and 1997, under-reporting on the OSHA logs was found.
- The degree of under-reporting did not change.
- Under-reporting seemed to be concentrated in certain employers
- How much?
 - Total Recordable Injuries were under-reported by 10-11%
 - Lost-Time Injuries were under-reported by 22 to 25%

Why? BLS Gives These Reasons

- Sheer neglect for record-keeping
- Poor communication of injury information needed for record-keeping decision
- Management bonuses tied to low injury rates
- Employee bonuses or group awards for zero injuries
- Adverse impact (loss of overtime, promotions) to employees reporting injuries
- Overly aggressive and personal accident investigations, including personal lifestyles

Lessons Learned?

- Lowest reported injury rates may be falsely low due to establishment-specific under-reporting found by GAO.
- Average injury rates for manufacturing are 10% low for total recordable injuries and 25% low for lost time injury rates, due to under-reporting.
- Better communication and follow-up of injuries will lead to higher rates, due to capture of information that makes injuries recordable.
- Incentive programs may bias reporting.

Discussion ensued as to Goals, Metrics, Industry Standards (Best-In-Class), Projections, and general concern as to what Ray Orbach and the Office of Science might do.

Research Review Committees and Health & Safety

Peter Lichty circulated a chart of the various Research Review Committees at LBNL that have safety elements. A copy of the chart is attached. He described the committees' functions, their inter-committee relations, and the coordination personnel. Also touched were involvements with UCB and other outside bodies.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward J. Lampo
SRC Secretary